THE WARBLER

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Dear Student, Artist, Thinker,

As I was preparing to write this issue's letter, my mind kept going back to the conflict of ideas between Booker T. Washington and W.E.B Du Bois (which will be better explained in one of the articles), and how we think about the word "compromise." On its surface, compromise is the foundation of strong relationships — you give a little, you get a little, and while things may not be perfect, overall they turn out for the best.

Sometimes.

Compromise can also feel like surrendering or defeat. In the political world, the party that seeks to compromise first can be seen as weak or having a lack of conviction (how many times have political leaders been praised for being "uncompromising"?). If what you are arguing for is basic human equality, then striking a deal that falls short of that can feel worse than no deal at all.

But it can be hard to anticipate whether progress will come in short steps or great leaps forward. Sometimes not getting everything you want (right now) requires you to be more creative in going after your goals — *The Warbler* itself is a creative compromise while our in-person classes are on hold. That doesn't mean we're giving up on resuming in-person classes as soon as we can, just that the road we're on has more curves than we expected.

Still, there is power in radical change, and it can be simpler than you might imagine. Drawing a picture or writing a poem can be a radical act. Developing your scientific mind can be a radical act. To do more when others expect less can be a radical act.

Humanity needs pragmatists like Booker T. Washington, we need idealists like W.E.B. Du Bois, and we need lifelong learners like George Washington Carver. We need people who will compromise and people who won't settle for less. We need to work together and independently in pursuit of our goals.

So let's get to work.

Kyes Stevens and the APAEP Team

"I wanted to know the name of every stone and flower and insect and bird and beast. I wanted to know where it got its color, where it got its life — but there was no one to tell me."

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER // American agricultural scientist and inventor

WORDS INSIDE

FROM "GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER"...

espoused | adopted or supported (a cause, belief, or way of life)

pantheon | all the gods of a people or religion collectively; a building in which the illustrious dead of a nation are buried or honored; a group of particularly respected, famous, or important people:

lampoon | publicly criticize (someone or something) by using ridicule, irony, or sarcasm; a speech or text criticizing someone or something in this way

FROM "THE LIFE OF BOOKER"...

auspices | a divine or prophetic token; with the help, support, or protection of

inculcate | instill (an attitude, idea, or habit) by persistent instruction; teach (someone) an attitude, idea, or habit by persistent instruction

jubilant | feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph

• • •

BIOGRAPHY

The Legacy of George Washington Carver

BY CHRISTINA VELLA | NBC News | Jan. 31, 2016

Most people can remember a few of George Washington Carver's inventions from something they read in school, which explained that he saved thousands of farmers from starvation with products he developed from peanuts, sweet potatoes, soybeans, and even unlikely sources like swamp muck and oil sludge.

Carver, working in a bare-bones laboratory hardly worthy of the name, and living in a period of virulent racism that we today can hardly imagine, still has so much to teach us about science, race, and life.

George Carver was born a slave, raised in a one-room shack in rural Missouri in the 1860s. At the age of ten, George struck out on his own to seek an education.

He worked at odd jobs, saving enough to support himself for a couple of months so that he could attend school, and returning to work when his money was gone. He was a Black drifter in those bitter years.

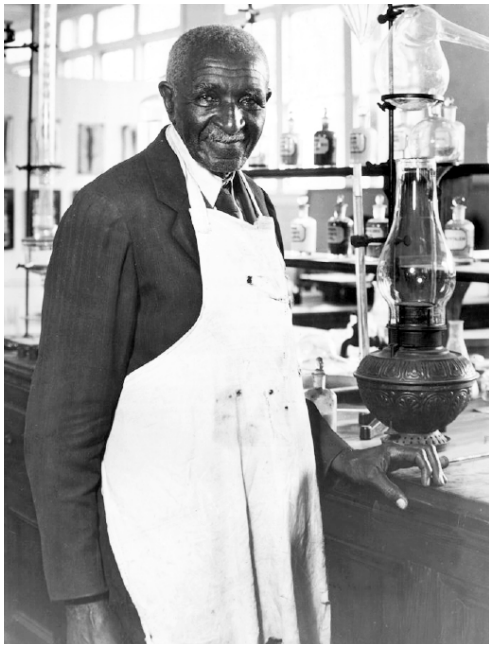
Carver managed to work his way through high school and Iowa State College in Ames. He even earned a master's degree, and, because he was so loved and admired as a genius scholar, found himself appointed to a full-fledged faculty position.

But in 1896, Carver met Booker T. Washington and fell under the hypnotic spell of a man he would come to idolize. He gave up his post in Iowa to go "to his people" at Tuskegee, the university Washington had founded in Alabama, and where Carver remained for the rest of his life. In the sharecropper cabins he visited in Alabama, Carver saw disease and desperation such as he had never before witnessed. Generations of cotton farming had depleted the soil and, as cotton prices fell, sharecroppers starved.

Carver set out to find crops besides cotton that a one-mule farmer could raise. Those alternative crops were peanuts, which replenished the soil, and sweet potatoes, which yielded more food per acre than any other plant. But in those days the peanut was no more considered an agricultural staple than parsley. So Carver began developing his amazing range of by-products to create a commercial demand. By the time of his death, peanuts had become the third most important cash crop of Alabama and Georgia, all due to his efforts.

Carver's life in those years was cursed with drama. Booker T. Washington was gnawed by jealousy of his erudite professor, and the two made each other miserable for the 19 years they worked together, complicated by fierce conflicts between Washington, Carver, and a woman Carver was in love with.

Only after Booker's death in 1915 could Carver begin garnering a reputation for his scientific work. In his research station he created useful items from materials normally thrown away: barnyard feathers (500 products); weeds that yielded dyes (over 500); acorns, animal bones, pine straw, kudzu, and many, many others. Farmers were accustomed to nailing newspaper on the inside walls of their shacks. Carver showed them how to make whitewash from the clay around their farms, and along the way he developed laundry powder, shoe polish, and dozens of paints and stains from the same clay. From wood shavings came synthetic marble. His discoveries in botany and mycology, the medicines he concocted from plants, his substitutes for milk led Albert Einstein to consider Carver one of the ten greatest scientists of his time.



circa 1935: American agricultural chemist Dr. George Washington Carver (1864-1943) poses in a laboratory.

Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Carver refused to patent his products and instead gave away the formulas to companies where he then served as unpaid chief consultant. He never accepted fees for speaking. And when Thomas Edison offered him $100,000 a year to work in his laboratories, Carver chose to remain in the Alabama hills, at Tuskegee Institute, with a salary of $1,000, because he felt that whatever he accomplished there would redound to his people.

Having given away his savings, Carver died poor and famous in 1945, with no luxuries except a wealth of unspent ideas. He probably would have agreed that there are moments when political activism and protest are needed. But in between those moments, in our daily, hourly routines, Carver's earnest example of decency, hard work, kindness to the highest and most lowly, can have a deep impact. ●

Edited for space.

WHO INVENTED THE 3-LIGHT TRAFFIC LIGHT IN 1923 (AS WELL AS AN IMPROVED SEWING MACHINE AND THE GAS MASK)? *Find the answer on page 3.*

BIOGRAPHY

The Life of Dr. Booker Taliaferro Washington

INFORMATION FROM **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY**

Founder and First President of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (now Tuskegee University). Term in Office: 1881-1915.

Booker Taliaferro was born in Franklin County, Virginia on April 5, 1856 to Jane, an enslaved cook of a small planter. In 1865, his mother took her children to Malden, West Virginia, to join her husband, who had gone there earlier and found work in the salt mines. At age nine, Booker was put to work packing salt, later working in a coal mine. He attended school while continuing to work in the mines.

At sixteen, Booker T. Washington entered Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia. The principal of the school, Samuel Chapman Armstrong, who had commanded Black troops in the Civil War, believed that the progress of freedmen and their descendants depended on education of a special sort, which would be practical and utilitarian and would at the same time inculcate character and morality.

At Hampton, Washington studied academic subjects and agriculture. His special interest was public speaking and debate. He was jubilant when he was chosen to speak at commencement.

After graduating from Hampton with honors in 1875, Washington returned to Malden to teach. This experience reinforced his belief in an educational system that emphasized practical skills and self-help. In 1879, Washington returned to Hampton to teach in a program for American Indians.

In 1880, a bill that included a yearly appropriation of $2,000 was passed by the Alabama State Legislature to establish a school for Blacks in Macon County. Governor Rufus Willis Cobb signed the bill into law, establishing the Tuskegee Normal School for the training of Black teachers.

Armstrong was invited to recommend a white teacher as principal of the school. Instead, he suggested Washington, who accepted. When Washington arrived at Tuskegee, he found that no land or buildings had been acquired for the projected school, nor was there any money for these purposes since the appropriation was for salaries only.

Undaunted, Washington opened the school in 1881, in a shanty loaned by a Black church. With money borrowed from Hampton, Washington purchased an abandoned 100-acres on the outskirts of Tuskegee. Students built a kiln, made bricks for buildings and sold bricks to raise money. Within a few years, they built a classroom building, a dining hall, a girl's dormitory and a chapel.

By 1888, the 540-acre Tuskegee Institute had an enrollment of more than 400 and offered training in such skilled trades as carpentry, cabinet-making, printing, shoemaking and tinsmithing. Boys also studied farming and dairying, while girls learned such domestic skills as cooking and sewing.

Through their own labor, students supplied a large part of the needs of the school. In the academic departments, Washington insisted that efforts be made to relate the subject matter to the actual experiences of the students.

Students followed a rigid schedule of study and work, arising at five in the morning and retiring at nine-thirty at night. Although Tuskegee was non-denominational, all students were required to attend chapel daily and a series of religious services on Sunday. Washington himself usually spoke to the students on Sunday evening.

Olivia Davidson became teacher and assistant principal at Tuskegee in 1881. In 1885, Washington's older brother John, also a Hampton graduate, came to Tuskegee to direct the vocational training program.

Other notable additions to the staff were acclaimed scientist Dr. George Washington Carver, who became director of the agriculture program in 1896; Emmett J. Scott, who became Washington's private secretary in 1897; and Monroe Nathan Work, who became head of the Records and Research Department in 1908.

By Tuskegee's 25th anniversary, Washington had transformed an idea into a 2,000-acre, eighty-three building campus. Tuskegee's endowment fund was $1,275,644 and training in 37 industries was available for the more than 1,500 students enrolled that year.

Through progress at Tuskegee, Washington showed that an oppressed people could advance. His concept of practical education was a major contribution to the broader field. His writings, which included 40 books, were widely read and highly regarded.

In 1901, Washington became the first Black person to dine at the White House. Counsel to many U.S. presidents, he was there at the invitation of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Washington was married three times and had three children. In 1915, nearly 8,000 people attended his funeral in the Tuskegee Institute Chapel. He was buried on a hill in a brick tomb, overlooking the entire campus. ●

WITH ONLY AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, BLACK INVENTOR (AND SON OF A SLAVE), **GARRETT MORGAN** CAME UP WITH SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT INVENTIONS. WITHOUT HIS INNOVATION, DRIVERS ACROSS THE NATION WOULD BE DIRECTED BY A TWO-LIGHT SYSTEM.

history.com

Edited for clarity.

MATHEMATICS

Sudoku

#37 PUZZLE NO. 2960333

8		9				4		
3					4			2
	4			2		5	9	
7	9				6			
	5				7	1		
4			5		9	6		
								8
					1	3		
6	8			3				

©Sudoku.cool

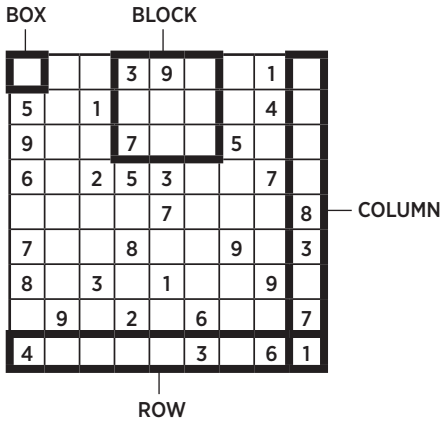
#38 PUZZLE NO. 8271372

			8		6			2
						7	6	
	1				7			4
		1			8			7
2			7	4				
5		4					3	
		2	3				8	5
				8	1			
	5	9				3		

©Sudoku.cool

SUDOKU HOW-TO GUIDE

1. Each block, row, and column must contain the numbers 1–9.
2. Sudoku is a game of logic and reasoning, so you should not need to guess.
3. Don't repeat numbers within each block, row, or column.
4. Use the process of elimination to figure out the correct placement of numbers in each box.
5. The answers appear on the last page of this newsletter.



What the example will look like solved

2	4	8	3	9	5	7	1	6
5	7	1	6	2	8	3	4	9
9	3	6	7	4	1	5	8	2
6	8	2	5	3	9	1	7	4
3	5	9	1	7	4	6	2	8
7	1	4	8	6	2	9	5	3
8	6	3	4	1	7	2	9	5
1	9	5	2	8	6	4	3	7
4	2	7	9	5	3	8	6	1

"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
// American educator, author, and presidential advisor

Icons from the Noun Project

DID YOU KNOW?

... ABOUT THESE AFRICAN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS ...

George Carruthers | *Astrophysicist* — Invented ultraviolet camera/spectrograph, which was used by NASA when it launched Apollo 16 in 1972.

Patricia Bath | *Ophthalmologist* — Inventions related to cataract surgery and include the Laserphaco Probe, which revolutionized the industry in the 1980s, and an ultrasound technique for treatment.

Otis Boykin | *Inventor, engineer* — Invented the artificial heart pacemaker control unit.

David Crosthwait, Jr. | *Research engineer* — Worked in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; received some 40 US patents relating to HVAC systems.

Lonnie Johnson | *Mechanical engineer, nuclear engineer, inventor* — Invented Super Soaker while researching thermal energy transfer engines; worked with NASA; holder of over 80 patents.

Samuel L. Kountz | *Transplant surgeon, researcher* — Organ transplantation pioneer, particularly renal transplant research and surgery.

Alexander Miles | *Inventor* — Invented electric elevator doors that automatically open and close.

Charles Henry Turner | *Zoologist* — First person to prove that insects can hear and can distinguish pitch, that cockroaches can learn by trial and error, and that honeybees can see color.

Source: Wikipedia

Darryl Cunningham

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON // American educator, author, and presidential advisor

Idiom

"It's better to light a candle than curse the darkness."

Meaning Instead of complaining about how bad a situation is, it is better to work to improve things yourself.

Origin Several people are associated with this proverbial saying, notably John F. Kennedy. It was brought to the public's attention by Peter Benenson, the English lawyer and founder of Amnesty International, at a Human Rights Day ceremony on 10th December 1961. The candle circled by barbed wire has since become the society's emblem.

Darkness has long been a metaphor for ignorance or evil. The Bible contains hundreds of references to darkness, referring either to the period of ignorance before the realization of faith (that is, prior to 'seeing the light'), death, or to the Devil (The Prince of Darkness); for example, in Romans 13:

13:11 *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.* // **13:12** *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

And it is in a religious context that the phrase is first found in print. The English Wesleyan minister William Lonsdale Watkinson used the expression in *The Supreme Conquest, and other sermons preached in America,* 1907:

But denunciatory rhetoric is so much easier and cheaper than good works, and proves a popular temptation. Yet is it far better to light the candle than to curse the darkness.

Source: Phrases.org

ART + CULTURE

Ballad of Booker T.

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

Booker T.
Was a practical man.
He said, Till the soil
And learn from the land.
Let down your bucket
Where you are.
Your fate is here
And not afar.
To help yourself
And your fellow man,
Train your head,
Your heart, and your hand.
For smartness alone's
Surely not meet—
If you haven't at the same time
Got something to eat.
Thus at Tuskegee
He built a school
With book-learning there
And the workman's tool.
He started out
In a simple way—
For yesterday
Was not today.
Sometimes he had
Compromise in his talk—
For a man must crawl
Before he can walk—
And in Alabama in '85
A joker was lucky
To be alive.
But Booker T.
Was nobody's fool:
You may carve a dream
With an humble tool.
The tallest tower
Can tumble down
If it be not rooted
In solid ground.
So, being a far-seeing
Practical man,
He said, Train your head,
Your heart, and your hand.
Your fate is here
And not afar,
So let down your bucket
Where you are.

WRITING PROMPT
Booker T. Washington is a complicated historical figure, much of which came from his desire to compromise on civil rights in exchange for economic benefits, which earned him both enemies and allies. Think of a time you or someone close to you had to compromise on something. What was gained? What was lost? How did you feel in the end? Write a poem that captures all of those conflicting feelings.

Word Search

Y	Y	H	E	S	L	I	S	K	O	F	I	E	M
W	O	L	L	E	F	S	O	A	A	R	N	B	O
A	L	A	B	A	M	A	L	H	R	Y	A	U	C
O	U	A	T	R	E	I	I	D	O	E	M	C	P
E	E	M	O	L	L	H	D	S	T	S	K	K	W
S	T	I	E	O	D	A	E	H	E	T	R	E	K
I	R	A	H	L	O	O	H	C	S	E	O	T	Y
M	E	D	E	T	O	O	R	P	S	R	W	E	H
O	K	R	E	S	T	O	H	O	K	D	E	O	E
R	A	K	K	Y	E	D	I	A	D	A	L	I	A
P	C	D	A	E	L	L	B	M	N	Y	O	O	R
M	G	U	T	U	M	B	L	E	S	D	G	W	T
O	F	D	O	H	L	T	U	S	K	E	G	E	E
C	L	T	S	C	F	O	R	E	W	O	T	D	R

COMPROMISE
TUMBLE
YESTERDAY
HAND
BUCKET
SOLID
FELLOW
ROOTED
SOIL
TUSKEGEE
ALABAMA
HEART
HEAD
TOWER
SCHOOL
WORKMAN

James Mercer Langston Hughes (1902 - 1967) was born in Joplin, Missouri. His parents divorced when he was a young child, and his father moved to Mexico. He was raised by his grandmother until he was thirteen, when he moved to Lincoln, Illinois, to live with his mother and her husband, before the family eventually settled in Cleveland, Ohio. It was in Lincoln that Hughes began writing poetry. After graduating from high school, he spent a year in Mexico followed by a year at Columbia University in New York City. During this time, he held odd jobs such as assistant cook, launderer, and busboy. He also travelled to Africa and Europe working as a seaman. Hughes's first book of poetry, *The Weary Blues*, was published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1926. He finished his college education at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania three years later. In 1930 his first novel, *Not Without Laughter,* won the Harmon gold medal for literature. After his death in 1967, his residence at 20 East 127th Street in Harlem was given landmark status by the New York City Preservation Commission, and East 127th Street has been renamed "Langston Hughes Place."

HISTORY

The Legacy of Booker T. Washington Revisited

BY CANDICE NORWOOD | National Public Radio | March 5, 2015

Booker T. Washington was perhaps the most influential Black man in America during the late 1800s, but is often remembered today as being subservient, a sellout even.

Yes, he pursued racial equality with discretion. His famous "Atlanta Compromise" speech of 1895 cautioned Blacks against extremism and encouraged them to prove their worth by becoming productive members of society.

But what about his role as a Presidential adviser, or as the first leader of one of the country's best historically Black colleges? There's more to Washington's legacy.

When Washington became the head of a new Black college being built just east of Montgomery, Alabama in 1881, Tuskegee was 30 students in a rundown church. During the school's first year, Washington pretty much did everything — he taught most subjects, managed the school and formed strong relationships with community locals. He managed to secure enough loans and donations to purchase land and build new facilities.

Washington built the institute on the idea that industrial skills would lead Blacks to success. As part of a work-study program to pay for room and board, students helped to construct and maintain the school's new buildings.

This philosophy also transferred to the classroom. In addition to academic basics, each student took up a vocational trade to learn. Washington regularly held "Sunday Evening Talks," which he used to reinforce his views on education.

"When you speak to the average person about labor, industrial work, especially, he gets the idea at once that you are opposed to his head's being educated — that you simply want to put him to work," he said during one evening.

"Anybody who knows anything about industrial education, knows that it teaches a person just the opposite — how not to work. It teaches him to make water work for him, to make air, steam and all the forces of nature work for him."

The Tuskegee Institute attracted attention across the country. Washington never wanted to turn students away, so the school grew quickly, with about 1,000 students in the early 1900s, more than all of the white public college students in Alabama combined.

The Tuskegee Institute became Tuskegee University, which enrolls more than 3,000 students and offers more than 50 degrees.

Historian Robert Norrell says, "Washington created an institution that became a powerful symbol of Black competence, of Black success, of Black achievement."

This was an important message to send at the time. And Washington's willingness to work within the confines of America's oppressive system contributed to this success.

Despite his renown, Washington's perceived allegiance to the status quo strained his relationships with other Black leaders, most notably the author and intellectual, W.E.B. Du Bois. Both saw education as a gateway to racial equality following the Civil War.

Tuskegee's early buildings were in such bad shape that on rainy days a student had to hold an umbrella over Washington while he lectured.

Illustration by LA Johnson/NPR

The two first connected in 1894 when Washington offered young Du Bois a teaching position at Tuskegee; however, Du Bois had already accepted another job. They later collaborated on a 1907 book of collected lectures.

Despite this overlap, Washington and Du Bois had some key differences. Du Bois was the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. He was a writer and a scholar based in the East Coast.

Washington on the other hand, was an educator and businessman, building a Black school in the Deep South during the Jim Crow era. Their locations and social standing shaped their opposing views on education and race.

Washington saw the benefit of a gradual process. Du Bois wanted more direct, immediate action. Washington pushed for vocational training; Du Bois favored collegiate education. Washington's approach was practical for the masses. Du Bois focused on advancing the "talented tenth," an exceptional group of African-Americans who would uplift the Black community.

The roots of the Washington–Du Bois conflict spark debate to this day. What's the best way to expand higher education access for minorities and other disadvantaged groups? What is the value of the liberal arts versus practical trade skills? Should social justice movements pursue reform through radical or incremental approaches?

Tuskegee's 7th president, Brian Johnson, argues that we should look at a larger picture rather than putting them into distinct categories. "This Washington versus Du Bois idea has become a political construct," he says. "Let's get a more nuanced, richly textured view of history, so that we can understand where they both joined together." ●

?

WHO INVENTED THE REFRIGERATED TRUCK IN 1940? *Find the answer on page 8.*

HISTORY

George Washington Carver, the Black History Monthiest of Them All

BY GENE DEMBY | NPR's *CodeSwitch* | February 11, 2014

Peanuts.

He did something, probably a lot of somethings, with peanuts.

That's basically the response I got when I asked people — my friends, folks on Twitter — what they knew about about George Washington Carver.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should say here that I shared the same vague grasp about Carver's accomplishments, despite the fact that my high school is named after the guy. To me, he was the peanut dude.

Carver is, in a lot of ways, the Black History Monthiest of all of our Black History Month mainstays. All of the other folks who would be in your black history flashcard set — Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, W.E.B. Du Bois, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman — had discrete achievements that can be easily recalled; they get name-dropped throughout the year. But Carver is pretty much a February-only kind of deal. There's no Civil Rights Act he can be credited with helping to formalize, no foundational political theories he espoused, no popular innovation that he developed.

And yet. In 1941, *Time* dubbed him the "Black Leonardo." He was a close friend of Henry Ford, a fellow eccentric and inventor. He was the first nonpresident to have a monument established at his birthplace by the National Park Service. Two decades after his death, the opera singer Marian Anderson christened a nuclear submarine that bore his name.

Linda McMurry, author of the biography *George Washington Carver: Scientist and Symbol*, writes that Carver was ubiquitous in his time, and one of the dozen or so most famous people in America. "In the last four years of his life, his name was attached to almost everything even remotely connected with Blacks," she writes. "Eventually it became practically impossible to enter a Black community anywhere in America without being reminded of the existence of a man named George Washington Carver."

So how is it that Carver, who was once one of the most famous men in America, Black or white, has become a guy so few of us really know? Just how did he become such an integral part of the Black History Month pantheon?

In his early career, Carver was overshadowed by Booker T. Washington, the famed educator who successfully recruited him to teach at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Carver was a devotee of Washington's teachings, and he believed that his agricultural research could help Black farmers become more self-reliant. He wanted small Southern farms to become more sustainable and less reliant on cotton — the region's dominant cash crop — for survival.

The relationship between Washington and Carver was a complicated one. Carver was beloved by his students, but he wasn't a good administrator and he actively avoided the more mundane aspects of teaching. He regularly threatened to resign from Tuskegee, even though Washington extended him all kinds of privileges other faculty members didn't enjoy, and regularly touted the young scientist's intellect.

When Washington died, Carver was distraught. But his own profile began to rise quickly. His research had given him contacts in the federal government, which gave him more clout. He was named a fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts. That fellowship boosted his reputation, and each new honor and award begat more honors still. And despite his image as a paragon of humility, Carver ran with it. He actively cultivated his newfound fame. He spent as much time at speaking engagements on other campuses as he did at Tuskegee.

Carver did come up with a whole lot of uses for the peanut, but few of them became widely used. Much of his reputation came after he was adopted as a spokesman of sorts by the United Peanut Association of America.

In 1921, he went to D.C. on the association's behalf to lobby for a tariff on foreign peanuts. He was supposed to give a brief talk in which he showed off some alternative peanut food products, some of

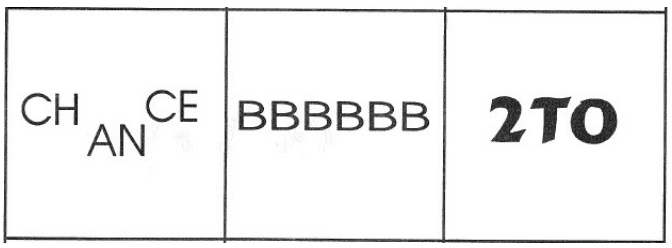
!

FREDERICK MCKINLEY JONES, WHO TOOK OUT MORE THAN 60 PATENTS THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. HE RECEIVED A PATENT FOR HIS REFRIGERATION INVENTION IN 1940, AND CO-FOUNDED THE U.S. THERMO CONTROL COMPANY. THE COMPANY WAS CRITICAL DURING WORLD WAR II, HELPING TO PRESERVE BLOOD, FOOD AND SUPPLIES DURING THE WAR.

history.com

WORD PLAY

A Rebus puzzle is a picture representation of a common word or phrase. How the letters/images appear within each box will give you clues to the answer! For example, if you saw the letters "LOOK ULEAP," you could guess that the phrase is "Look before you leap." *Answers are on the last page!*



which he ate while he addressed the lawmakers.

The same charm Carver used to win over his Tuskegee students dazzled members of Congress so much that they kept extending his allotted speaking time. When he was done with his presentation, onlookers broke out into applause. The tariff was eventually passed. That incident turned Carver into a major national celebrity.

The press began to lay it on thick with the mythmaking and Carver didn't try terribly hard to correct the record on a lot of their exaggerations about him. "The exotic qualities of his life were highlighted and often distorted, and what emerged was an image of Carver singlehandedly remaking the South," McMurry wrote.

His fame meant he was swamped with proposals to develop this or that food-based product, but Carver, never a stickler for details, didn't want to be bogged down with the logistics of manufacturing. So a lot of his business ideas — for paints and dyes and adhesives made from sweet potatoes, peanuts and the like — either dried up or limped along before dying quietly.

I wondered aloud to a historian friend, Jelani Cobb whether Carver's historical import had been overstated. Why does Carver, whose work has little obvious contemporary resonance, matter so much?

He seemed annoyed with the question. "Carver was important partly because of what he did and the context in which he did it," Cobb told me.

It's pretty hard to argue with that. Let's think about the degree of difficulty of his trajectory for a second. George Washington Carver, born a slave in Missouri and who became a famous, eccentric agricultural scientist at a time when Blacks were all but absent from mainstream American life. When you consider this, it makes sense that Carver's significance is so hard to translate into contemporary life. His celebrity was so peculiar, so specific to his moment.

It's important to consider, again, that he wasn't alive for most of the moments that became the signposts of the civil rights movement. When folks criticize and lampoon Black History Month, it isn't the history of Black folks they're making fun of. It's a side-eye at the idea that the history of African-Americans — of any people, really — fits neatly into a month and can be reduced to the kind of trivia that might be stamped onto a bottlecap. These history and heritage months can feel overly precious, too pat. But ideally, they should give us the chance to revisit and reconsider the folks who were mostly quiet on the most pressing issues of their days.

All of which makes Carver, odd as it may seem, a pretty strong argument for Black History Month.

The folks I asked about Carver kept trying to remember the important things he did with peanuts. But while the peanut stuff is the main bullet point, it only sort of matters. It's the messier details that make someone like Carver worth considering. He was a scientist who attended white schools who was friends with some of the most powerful men in America. He wasn't politically inclined, but he was one of America's most famous people at a time when simply being Black in public life was necessarily a political act.

Those nebulous advances are the ones folks strain to remember, and everyone feels a kind of guilt for not remembering the specifics around Carver's work with peanuts. But that stuff doesn't matter. So let's just go ahead and forget the peanuts. ●

?

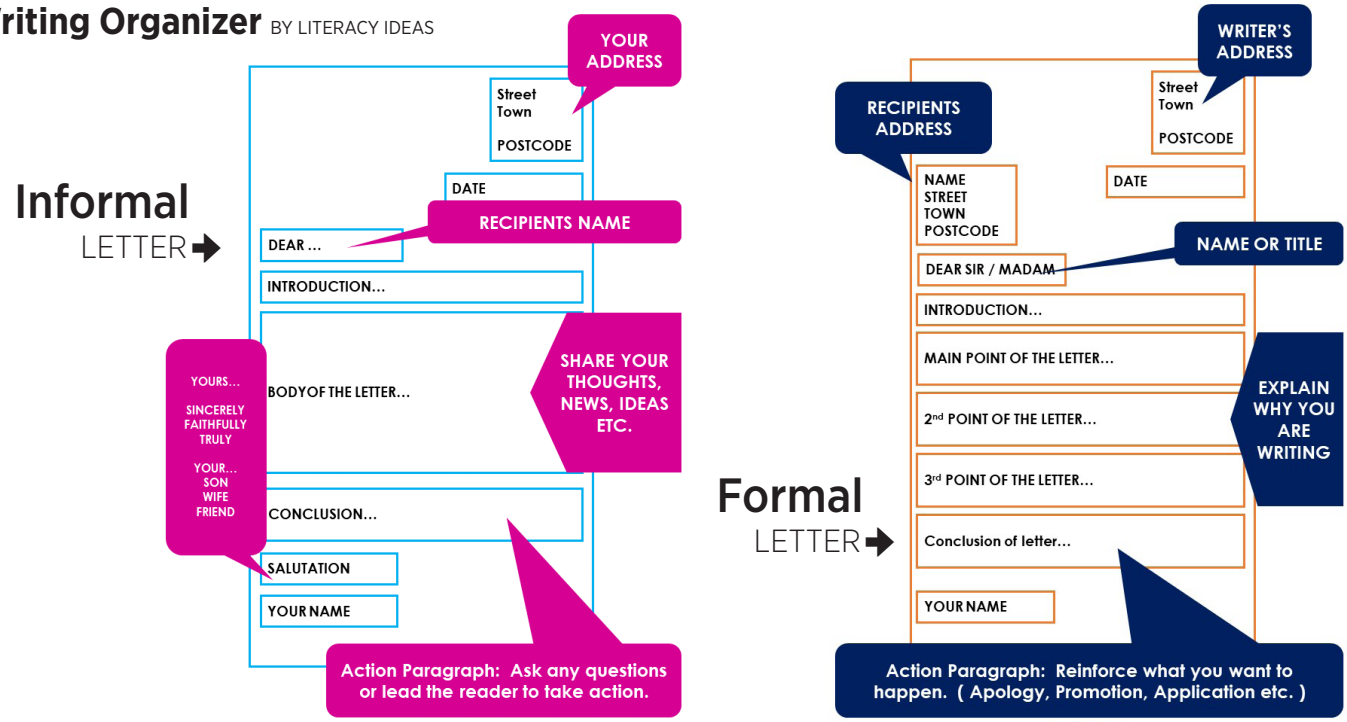
WHO WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN TO EARN A DOCTORATE IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT) IN 1973? *Find the answer on the back page.*

ThinkGrowth.org

Edited for space.

RANDOM-NEST

Writing Organizer BY LITERACY IDEAS



Literacy Ideas

Words of Encouragement

A phoenix, a mythological creature, dies many deaths but always arises from the ashes, stronger, more beautiful, and more amazing than before. It is said to be representative of the never-ending opportunities to learn. Even in the worst of situations, and the hottest of ashes (harshest environments), something beautiful can be created. As I think about the current situations in the world, I reflect upon the phoenix. The phoenix can adapt to situations, stand up for itself and its young, has insight like hawks, vision like an eagle, and power of a dragon. I envy the phoenix, and yet, work to embody some of these characteristics. Phoenixes also rise from the ashes. Ashes are used on multiple farms to fertilize, add nutrients, or restart land for a new season of growth (controlled burns). From the ashes of discrimination, inequity, financial stress, educational deficits, and more, a lived experience has occurred. A wealth of knowledge and experience has been formulated and it is information, insights, and a drive that nobody can take from me. It has evolved into a purpose, a desire to educate and a desire to serve. So, I challenge you, think about your experiences and desires. What is your drive? What is your purpose? Or are you letting the rich and purpose-filled ashes of your life simply sit?

LV

Answers

SUDOKU #37

8	2	9	7	5	3	4	1	6
3	6	5	1	9	4	7	8	2
1	4	7	6	2	8	5	9	3
7	9	1	2	4	6	8	3	5
2	5	6	3	8	7	1	4	9
4	3	8	5	1	9	6	2	7
5	1	3	4	7	2	9	6	8
9	7	2	8	6	1	3	5	4
6	8	4	9	3	5	2	7	1

SUDOKU #38

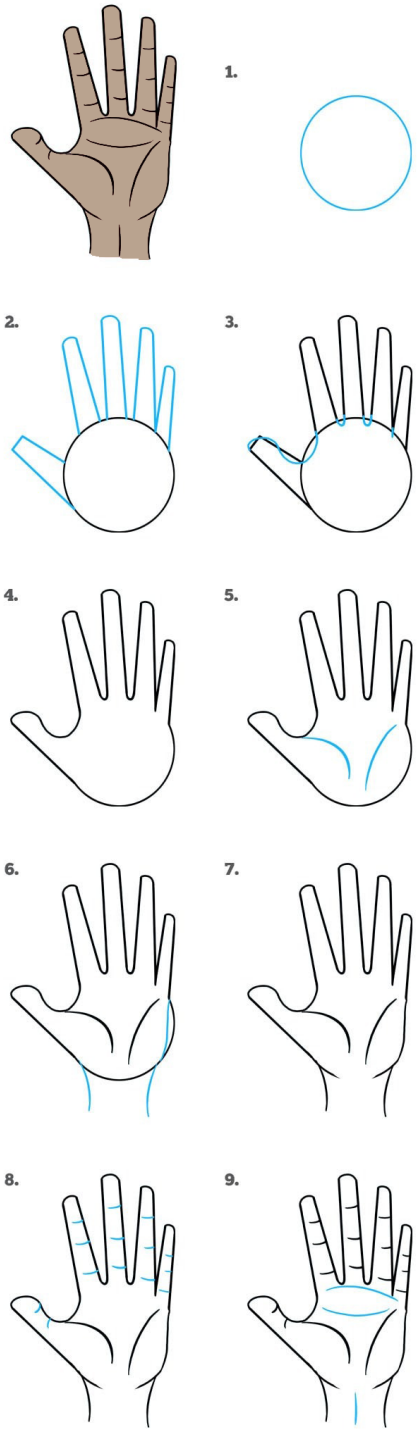
7	4	5	8	3	6	1	9	2
9	2	8	4	1	5	7	6	3
6	1	3	9	2	7	8	5	4
3	9	1	6	5	8	2	4	7
2	8	6	7	4	3	5	1	9
5	7	4	1	9	2	6	3	8
1	6	2	3	7	9	4	8	5
4	3	7	5	8	1	9	2	6
8	5	9	2	6	4	3	7	1

Brainteasers

Page 8 Rebus Puzzle: 1. An outward chance 2. Bee-line 3. Put 2 and 2 together

Page 9 Dr. Shirley Jackson. In addition to her lengthy list of academic achievements, she also has an impressive number of inventions under her belt. Her experiments with theoretical physics paved the way for numerous developments in the telecommunication space including the touch-tone telephone, the portable fax, caller ID, call waiting, and the fiber-optic cable.

HOW TO DRAW A HAND



Send ideas and comments to:

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UNTIL NEXT TIME!